

Fact Sheet:

Specialized Dementia Care Program in Boarding Homes

Overview

Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) is committed to improving consumer options through expansion of ADSA residential care program capacity. The Specialized Dementia Care Program (SDCP) in Boarding Homes promotes a care model based on meeting individual needs. It promotes optimum health and quality of life, in an environment that accommodates cognitive deficits, maximizes functional abilities, and promotes aging-in-place. The expectations and requirements for providers in the Specialized Dementia Care Program in Boarding Homes are based upon lessons learned in the Dementia Care Pilot Project in Boarding Homes (see below).

The Pilot Project

The *Dementia Care Pilot Project in Boarding Homes* started in November 1999. Over 100 people were enrolled at fourteen sites throughout the state. Fifty people with dementia in traditional boarding home settings were evaluated for comparative purposes. This project allowed ADSA and partners to develop the **Standards of Care** as a way to promote an effective care model for people with dementia receiving Medicaid-funded services.

The University of Washington evaluated the effectiveness of the program and issued a report in October 2003. Some findings from the report include:

- Specialized Dementia Care programs serve a more severely cognitively impaired and behaviorally disturbed group of DSHS clients than traditional care facilities.
- Specialized Dementia Care programs retained residents with lower cognitive function and significantly higher level of behavioral disturbance for a longer time than traditional care facilities.
- Despite the greater level of impairment, residents in SDC programs had 1/3 the risk of nursing home placement within 18 months.
- Despite the more challenging resident population served in Specialized Dementia Care facilities, frequency of pleasant activities was significantly higher in Specialized Dementia Care than in traditional care.
- Families of residents in Specialized Dementia Care programs reported higher levels of satisfaction with their family member's care than those in traditional care facilities at each assessment point.
- In summary, the *Dementia Care Pilot Project in Boarding Homes* demonstrated positive outcomes for residents, and did so at a savings when compared to nursing home care.



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Expansion of the Project

Effective September 1, 2004, the program Standards of Care were transferred into an on-going program with generally equivalent requirements specified in WAC 388-110 Contracted Residential Care Services. The services are delivered through the "enhanced adult residential care-specialized dementia care" contract. Some of the expectations from the original Standards of Care were integrated into Boarding Home Licensing Rules WAC 388-78A).

The services must be delivered in either (a) a facility dedicated solely to the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease/dementia; or (b) a designated, separate unit/wing dedicated solely to the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease/dementia located within a larger facility.

As of December 2005, SDCP contractors are found in each DSHS region. By June 2006, there will be 53 boarding homes with a SDCP contract serving a total of 510 clients statewide.

Daily Rate

The daily rate (as of July 1, 2005) for the Specialized Dementia Care Program in Boarding Homes is \$88.15 for non-metropolitan service areas, \$93.44 for metropolitan service areas, and \$103.42 for King County.

*Revised by L. Korte;
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